

8 March 2012

# Statutory Homelessness: October to December Quarter 2011 England



### Household acceptances

- 12,830 applicants were accepted as owed a main homelessness duty between 1 October and 31 December 2011, 18 per cent higher than during the same quarter of 2010.
- On a seasonally-adjusted basis, there were 13,160 acceptances, an increase of 9 per cent from 12,060 in the previous quarter.
- There were 48,510 acceptances in the 2011 calendar year, up 14 per cent from 42,390 acceptances in 2010.

### Households in temporary accommodation

- 48,920 households were in temporary accommodation on 31 December 2011, 2 per cent higher than at the same date in 2010.
- On a seasonally-adjusted basis, 49,390 households were in temporary accommodation on 31 December, a 1 per cent increase from 48,670 in the previous quarter.

### Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Decisions</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Acceptances</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Temporary Accommodation</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Actions taken to end duty</b>	<b>6</b>
Accompanying live tables	8
Definitions	10
Legislation	11
Methodology	11
Data source and scope	12
Devolved administrations	12
Related links	14
Data quality	14
Revisions Policy	15
Uses of the data	15
User consultation	16
Other information	16
Enquiries	17

# housing

### Responsible Statistician:

Andrew Presland

Phone: 030344 43510

[homelessnessstats@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:homelessnessstats@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

### Media Enquiries:

Office hours: 0303 444 1159

Out of hours: 0303 444 1201

[press.office@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:press.office@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

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## Introduction

This release provides summary information on local housing authorities' activities under homelessness legislation, collected through the quarterly P1E statistical return. Data include the number of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty (referred to as acceptances) during the quarter, and the number of households in temporary accommodation on the last day of the quarter. Accompanying live tables are provided online and are listed on pages 8 and 9. These form the underlying data used to produce most of the text and charts. The background notes section provides more detail of terms used within the release.

## Decisions taken by local authorities on homeless applications

Between 1 October and 31 December 2011, local housing authorities made 27,470 decisions on applications (by eligible households) for housing assistance, under the homelessness legislation of the Housing Act 1996. This is 5 per cent higher than in the corresponding quarter in 2010. After seasonal adjustment, the number of decisions was 27,780, 5 per cent higher than in the previous quarter. Comparing calendar years, 107,240 decisions were made in 2011, up 10 per cent from 97,210 decisions in 2010.

### Key points:

Of the 27,470 decisions made between 1 October and 31 December 2011:

- 47 per cent were accepted as owed a main homelessness duty (these are known as 'homelessness acceptances');
- 29 per cent were found not to be homeless;
- 17 per cent were found to be homeless but not in priority need; and
- 8 per cent were found to be intentionally homeless and in priority need.

The number of households found to be unintentionally homeless and in priority need - and so owed a main homelessness duty - rose by 18 per cent compared to the same quarter in 2010; the number of households found to be homeless but not in priority need decreased by 8 per cent compared to the same quarter in 2010. Further, the number of households found not to be homeless decreased by 5 per cent and the number of households found to be intentionally homeless and in priority need increased by 11 per cent, compared to the same quarter in 2010.

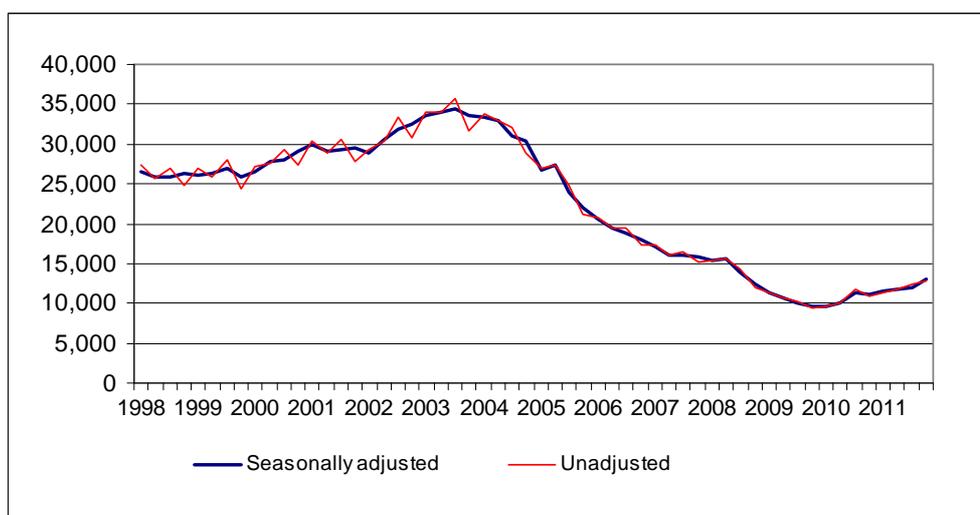
There has been an increase in the proportion of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty as a percentage of decisions when compared to the same quarter last year – from 42 per cent to 47 per cent. Households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty are dealt with further in the next section.

*See Live Table 770: Decisions taken by local authorities under the 1996 Housing Act on applications from eligible households.*

## Households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty

Between 1 October and 31 December 2011, local authorities accepted 12,830 households as being owed a main homelessness duty. This is an 18 per cent increase compared to the same quarter last year. After seasonal adjustment, the number of acceptances during the final quarter of 2011 was 13,160, an increase of 9 per cent from the seasonally-adjusted figure of 12,060 in the previous quarter. Comparing calendar years, there were 48,510 acceptances in 2011, up 14 per cent from 42,390 in 2010.

**Chart 1: Households accepted by local authorities as owed a main duty each quarter, 1998 to October to December quarter 2011, England**



See Live Table 770: Decisions taken by local authorities under the 1996 Housing Act on applications from eligible households

### Key points:

There has been an increase in the number of acceptances where the reason for homelessness was the ending of an assured shorthold tenancy when compared to the same quarter last year, from 1,620 to 2,450 households. The proportion of all acceptances due to this reason is 19 per cent, an increase from 15 per cent in the same quarter in 2010.

There has been an increase in the number of acceptances where homelessness resulted from mortgage arrears (repossession or other loss of home), from 300 to 410 households compared to the same quarter in 2010. Homelessness due to mortgage arrears nevertheless accounted for only 3 per cent of all acceptances and has remained much lower than the peak in the last economic downturn - 12 per cent during 1991.

Full breakdowns of reason for loss of last settled home and others, including age of accepted household, ethnicity, nationality, household type, priority need group, region and local authority can be found in some of the live tables at the link provided in the "Accompanying Live Tables" section of this release.

## Households in temporary accommodation

The number of households in temporary accommodation on 31 December 2011, arranged by local authorities under homelessness legislation, was 48,920 - 2 per cent higher than at the same date last year. After seasonal adjustment, the number of households in temporary accommodation was 49,390, an increase of 1 per cent from 48,670 in the previous quarter.

Historically, there tends to be a lag between a change in direction in the number of acceptances and a change in direction in the number of households in temporary accommodation. The recent turn in the time series shown in Chart 2 follows the increase in the acceptances series that began in 2010, as shown in Chart 1.

**Chart 2: Number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, 1998 to October to December quarter 2011, England**



See *Live Table 775: Homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by type of accommodation*

### Key points:

The number of households in temporary accommodation varies widely across regions. With 35,920 households, London accounted for just under three quarters of all households in temporary accommodation at the end of December 2011. This is a small decrease of 100 (under 1 per cent) from 36,020 households at the same date in 2010. Over the same period, there was an increase of 9 per cent in the use of temporary accommodation in the rest of England, from 11,990 to 13,010 households. However, the North East, South West and Yorkshire and the Humber also had decreases in the number of households in temporary accommodation compared to the same quarter in 2010.

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At the end of December 2011, 85 per cent of households in temporary accommodation were in self-contained accommodation - a decrease from 87 per cent on the same date last year. The decrease in the use of self-contained accommodation is largely due to a decline in the use of accommodation leased from the private sector by local authorities and housing associations, which decreased by 6 per cent from 27,730 to 26,080 households.

Conversely, the use of accommodation with shared facilities (bed and breakfast style accommodation or hostels/women's refuges) has increased slightly over recent quarters. At the end of December 2011, 15 per cent of all households in temporary accommodation were in shared facilities. This compares to 13 per cent at the end of the same quarter last year. Increases in recent quarters follow a long period of decline since its peak in 2001, when 30 per cent of households were in this form of temporary accommodation.

The recent increase in the use of shared facilities as temporary accommodation is largely due to increased usage of bed and breakfast style accommodation. The number of households in bed and breakfast hotels rose to 3,170, compared with 2,310 at the same date last year, an increase of 37 per cent. London accounts for just over half of all households in bed and breakfast style accommodation, and this number has increased since the same quarter last year from 1,090 to 1,680 households.

The use of self contained annexes as temporary accommodation has also risen nationally since the same quarter in 2010, up from 3,590 to 4,460 households.

Of the 48,920 households in temporary accommodation on 31 December, 36,600 included dependent children and/or a pregnant woman (within which households there were 69,460 children or expected children). The number of children per household in temporary accommodation has remained stable since the data were first collected in 2007 at around 1.4.

Of these 36,600 households with children, 90 per cent were in self-contained accommodation. This has fallen slightly from 92 per cent at the end of the same quarter last year. 1,310 (4 per cent) were in bed and breakfast style accommodation, up from 660 at the end of the same quarter last year. Of these 1,310 households, 450 had been in bed and breakfast style accommodation for six or more weeks (50 of which were pending review).

At the end of December, there were 100 households headed by 16 and 17 year old applicants in bed and breakfast style accommodation, of which 30 had been there for six or more weeks.

*Breakdowns including type of accommodation, age of household in temporary accommodation, ethnicity, household type, priority need category, region and local authority can be found in several of the live tables at the link provided in the "Accompanying Live Tables" section of this release.*

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## Action taken to end homelessness duty

### Action taken in respect of acceptances

Of the 12,830 acceptances between 1 October and 31 December 2011, 7,610 (59 per cent of all acceptances) were placed in some form of temporary accommodation.

For a further 3,930 accepted households (31 per cent), arrangements were made, with consent, to remain in their existing accommodation (or to make their own arrangements) for the immediate future while awaiting the provision of alternative accommodation. This is an increase of 16 per cent from 3,390 households in the same quarter in 2010.

7 per cent of acceptances were provided with settled accommodation by being granted a secure tenancy in local authority or private registered social landlord accommodation. A further 1 per cent were provided with an assured shorthold tenancy in the private rented sector. Both these proportions were similar to the same quarter in 2010.

The remaining 2 per cent either made their own arrangements or had no further contact with the authority, thus bringing the homelessness duty to an end.

*See Part 1 of Live Table 778: Homeless households accepted by local authorities, and households leaving temporary accommodation (or no longer recorded as "duty owed, no accommodation secured"), by outcome*

### Households leaving temporary accommodation and other temporary arrangements

Between 1 October and 31 December 2011, a main homelessness duty was ended for 10,850 households who had previously been in temporary accommodation or had remained, with consent, in their existing accommodation while awaiting the provision of alternative accommodation. This is up 5 per cent from the same quarter in 2010.

7,810 (72 per cent) of these households were provided with settled accommodation, by accepting a "Part 6" offer of a secure tenancy in local authority or housing authority accommodation. This is an increase from 70 per cent of all households leaving temporary arrangements in the same quarter in 2010. A further 5 per cent refused such an offer, down from 7 per cent in the same quarter of 2010. An additional 5 per cent accepted alternative offers of rented accommodation. This percentage is unchanged from the same quarter last year.

10 per cent of households leaving temporary accommodation or other temporary arrangements did so on a voluntary basis, the same percentage as in the same quarter in 2010. The remaining households ceased to be eligible, or became intentionally homeless from the temporary accommodation provided for them.

*See Part 2 of Live Table 778: Homeless households accepted by local authorities, and households*

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*leaving temporary accommodation (or no longer recorded as “duty owed, no accommodation secured”), by outcome*

*Live table 779 provides details of households leaving temporary accommodation (or no longer recorded as “duty owed, no accommodation secured”) during each quarter, by length of stay*

### **Foreign national households**

1,810 foreign national applicants were accepted as homeless between 1 October and 31 December 2011. Of these, 280 were European Economic Area (EEA) accession country nationals, 300 were from other EEA countries and 1,240 were from outside the EEA. During this period, foreign nationals accounted for 14 per cent of all acceptances, the same percentage as in the same quarter last year, when there were 1,500 acceptances.

*See Live table 785: Decisions taken by local authorities under the 1996 Housing Act on applications from eligible foreign national households; and Live table 786: Homeless foreign national households accepted by local authorities, by reason for eligibility*

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## Accompanying live tables

The following live tables on homelessness can be found at the following link:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/livetables/>

Table 770	Decisions taken by local authorities under the 1996 Housing Act on applications from eligible households
Table 771	Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by ethnicity
Table 772	Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by region
Table 773	Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by priority need category
Table 774	Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by reason for loss of last settled home
Table 775	Homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by type of accommodation
Table 776	Homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by region
Table 777	Homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, London and England
Table 778	Homeless households accepted by local authorities, and households leaving temporary accommodation (or no longer recorded as “duty owed, no accommodation secured”), by outcome
Table 779	Households leaving temporary accommodation (or no longer recorded as “duty owed, no accommodation secured”) during each quarter, by length of time since acceptance, England and London
Table 780	Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by household type
Table 781	Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by age of applicant
Table 782	Homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by household type and ethnicity
Table 783	Homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by type of accommodation and region

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- Table 784 Local authorities' action under the homelessness provisions of the 1985 and 1996 Housing Acts, by local authority (financial year: latest year is 2010-11, unchanged from the previous quarter's release)
  
  - Table 784a Local authorities' action under the homelessness provisions of the 1985 and 1996 Housing Acts, by local authority (quarterly)
  
  - Table 785 Decisions taken by local authorities under the 1996 Housing Act on applications from eligible foreign national households
  
  - Table 786 Homeless foreign national households accepted by local authorities, by reason for eligibility

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## Definitions

1. **Decisions:** refers to decisions taken in respect of all eligible households that apply for assistance under the Housing and Homelessness Acts. These do not therefore include households found to be ineligible for assistance (some persons from abroad are ineligible for assistance).
2. **Acceptances:** households found to be eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and falling within a priority need group (as defined by homelessness legislation - see paragraph 3 below), *during the quarter*, are referred to as “acceptances”. These households are consequently owed a main homelessness duty by a local housing authority. The main duty is to secure settled accommodation.
3. **Priority need groups:** include households with dependent children or a pregnant woman and people who are vulnerable in some way e.g. because of mental illness or physical disability. The priority need categories were extended by Order in January 2002 to include, additionally: applicants aged 16 or 17; applicants aged 18 to 20 who were previously in care; applicants vulnerable as a result of time spent in care, in custody, or in HM Forces, and applicants vulnerable as a result of having to flee their home because of violence or the threat of violence (in addition to domestic violence, which is one of the original priority need groups). It is not possible to establish precisely how much of the changed profile of acceptances is attributable to the Order. Previously, some local authorities would have accepted households that fell within the new categories as having a priority need because of "another special reason". This applies in particular to applicants such as vulnerable young people, and people fleeing domestic violence. Where applicants are accepted as homeless because of an emergency, for example fire or flood, this will always be recorded as the main priority need category.
4. **Temporary accommodation:** households in temporary accommodation (excluding those for whom a duty is owed, but no accommodation has been secured) *on the last day of the quarter*, as arranged by a local housing authority as a discharge of their statutory homelessness functions. In most cases, the authority is discharging a main homelessness duty to secure suitable accommodation until a settled home becomes available for the applicant and his/her household. However, the numbers also include households provided with accommodation pending a decision on their homelessness application, households pending a review or appeal to the county court of the decision on their case, or possible referral to another local authority, and households found to be intentionally homeless and in priority need who were being accommodated for such period as would give them a reasonable opportunity to find accommodation for themselves.
5. **Self-contained accommodation:** this includes all temporary accommodation where the household has sole use of kitchen and bathroom facilities, including property held by local housing authorities, registered social landlords and private sector landlords. A distinction is made between this type of accommodation and accommodation where such facilities are shared with other households (i.e. bed and breakfast, hostels and women's refuges).

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6. **Households for whom a duty is owed, but no accommodation has been secured:** these are households who have been accepted as being owed a main homelessness duty and for whom arrangements have been made for them, with consent, to remain in their existing accommodation (or to make their own arrangements) for the immediate future. This was previously referred to as “Homeless at Home”. Before the second quarter of 2005, figures were also collected on those potentially in this category but whose application was still under consideration pending a decision.

## Legislation

Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/52/contents>) and the Homelessness Act 2002 (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/7/contents>) place statutory duties on local housing authorities to provide assistance to people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. Authorities must consider all applications from people seeking accommodation or assistance in obtaining accommodation. A main homelessness duty (see below) is owed where the authority is satisfied that the applicant is eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and falls within a priority need group. The priority need groups are specified in the legislation, although definition 3 above provides a summary.

Where a main duty is owed, the authority must ensure that suitable accommodation is available for the applicant and his or her household until a settled home becomes available for them. Where households are found to be intentionally homeless or not in priority need, the authority must make an assessment of their housing needs and provide advice and assistance to help them find accommodation for themselves. Where the applicant is found to be intentionally homeless but falls in a priority need category the authority must also ensure that accommodation is available for long enough to give the applicant a reasonable opportunity to find a home.

## Methodology

1. The **seasonally adjusted** estimates have been produced using the X12-ARIMA model, in accordance with Official Statistics practices, which have then been constrained so that they are consistent with the unadjusted financial year totals. Historically, the number of decisions and acceptances tends to be lower in the second quarter than in the first and third quarters, and will also be affected by seasonal holiday periods, especially Christmas and the New Year. In the second quarter of 2009, seasonal adjustments were introduced for the households in temporary accommodation series, because this series was also found to be affected by seasonality.

2. **Rates per 1,000 households** have been calculated using the 2008-based household projections produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government. These projections were published on 26 November 2010 at the following link:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/householdestimates/>

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3. National and regional figures in the text and accompanying tables are presented rounded to the nearest 10 households or applicants. Local authority figures provided in the accompanying live tables are unrounded.

4. The maps are based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office:

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## Data source and scope

Local housing authorities report their activities under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 to the Department for Communities and Local Government by completing the quarterly P1E statistical return. The latest form and guidance can be found in the "Notes and Definitions" section of the Department's website:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/notesdefinitions/>

The following uses are made of data from particular sections of the P1E statistical return:

- Sections 1 - 7: data are used in this statistical release and Live tables 770 to 784a
- Section 8: this has been discontinued
- Section 9: data on foreign nationals - used in this statistical release and Live tables 785 and 786
- Section 10: prevention and relief data - used in the annual statistical release on homelessness prevention and relief and Live tables 787 to 792

Statutory homelessness statistics are published around 50 working days after the end of each quarter, on a pre-announced date in accordance with the Official Statistics Code of Practice.

The scope of this data collection and statistical release is limited to English local housing authorities' activities under homelessness legislation. This release does not contain data on other forms of homelessness, for example, rough sleeping. The devolved administrations publish their own statistics on statutory homelessness.

## Related statistics in the devolved administrations

In **Scotland**, local authorities' homelessness duties under the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 have been substantially amended by the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 and the Homelessness etc. (Scotland) Act 2003. The 2001 Act extended the duties towards non-priority homeless households, ensuring they are provided with a minimum of temporary accommodation, advice and assistance. The 2003 Act introduced many changes, of which the target to abolish the priority

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need test by 2012 is the most significant. The target states that by 31 December 2012 everyone assessed as being unintentionally homeless is entitled to settled accommodation.

The framework of the assessment process is similar to that in England. Local authorities currently make enquiries as to whether the person is homeless, whether they have a priority need, whether they made themselves homeless intentionally, and whether they have a local connection with the local authority. However, when fully enacted, the 2003 Act will remove or substantially amend the priority need, intentionality and local connection stages.

Data on applications are collected on the HL1 return, a continuous case level electronic data capture system. This case level data allows analysis of applications and breakdowns by combinations of characteristics which are not possible from the English local authority level P1E return. Cases can also be grouped to household level to identify instances of repeat homelessness.

Data on households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter is collected on the HL2 form which is completed by local authorities and records summary snapshot details in a similar way to the P1E. The HL2 return also contains information on households at risk of homelessness as defined under Section 11 of the Homelessness etc. (Scotland) Act 2003.

The most recent statutory homelessness statistics for Scotland are available at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/02/7556/0>

In **Wales**, local authorities are bound by the same statutory duties as those in England. The data are collected on a quarterly local authority level WHO12 return, similar to the P1E form in England. The most recent statutory homelessness statistics for Wales are available at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/housing/homeless/?lang=en>

In **Northern Ireland** statistics on homelessness are sourced from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). Under the Housing (NI) Order 1988, NIHE has a similar statutory responsibility to secure permanent accommodation for households who are unintentionally homeless and in priority need; to secure temporary accommodation in a variety of circumstances and to provide advice and assistance to those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. The most recent statutory homelessness statistics for Northern Ireland are available at:

[http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/publications/housing\\_bulletins.htm](http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/publications/housing_bulletins.htm)

### **Comparing between countries**

Statutory homelessness statistics for Wales and Northern Ireland are comparable with the English figures. However, actions taken by Scottish authorities since the 2003 Act to meet the target to abolish priority need by the end of 2012 mean that caution should be exercised when comparing Scotland and England figures or deriving a UK figure over that time period.

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## Related links

The Department also releases information on Homelessness Prevention and Relief. The most recent publication, relating to local authority actions in the 2010-11 financial year, can be found at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/homelessnesspreventionrelief/>

Rough sleeping statistics can be found at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/roughsleepingcounts/>

Statistics on local authority revenue expenditure and financing in England can be found at the following link. The RO4 return within the Revenue Outturn suite relates to housing services and includes information on local authorities' expenditure on homelessness activities:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/revenueexpenditure>

## Data quality

All P1E returns submitted by local housing authorities undergo thorough validation and cross-checking, and late returns are pursued to ensure overall response is as complete and accurate as possible. Anomalous data are highlighted and verified by contacting the local authority.

Local authorities also provide details of any data checks they undertake. These can take the form of audits (by either internal or external auditors), periodic quality checks on data extracts, or random quality checks. For the period 1 October to 31 December 2011, most authorities reported some form of checking on all data items in the return.

The validation process typically takes around six weeks, after which estimates for missing data are calculated. Local authorities are split into groups based on the region they are in and by type of authority. For example, the West Midlands is split into two groups, one group of district and unitary authorities, the other of metropolitan districts. London is split into inner- and outer-London. Estimates are then calculated by an automated grossing procedure which either (i) updates previously reported data based on the changes observed in other authorities in the same group or (ii) apports totals based on ratios reported by these similar authorities.

The latest quarter's figures are based on full or partial returns for all 326 local authorities (100 per cent response). One local authority provided only the two headline figures - number of households accepted as owed a main homeless duty and number of households in temporary accommodation. Section 7 of the form, covering households leaving temporary accommodation or other temporary arrangements had the lowest rate of return, with sixteen local authorities not providing any figures. Overall, 97 per cent of cells were filled in by local authorities.

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The Department for Communities and Local Government's statistical quality guidelines are published here:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statisticalnoticequalityguidance>

## Revisions policy

This policy has been developed in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official statistics and the Department for Communities and Local Government Revisions Policy (found at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statisticalnoticerevisionspolicy>).

There are two types of revisions that the policy covers:

### Non-Scheduled Revisions

Where a substantial error has occurred as a result of the compilation, imputation or dissemination process, the statistical release, live tables and other accompanying releases will be updated with a correction notice as soon as is practical.

### Scheduled Revisions

Local authorities can update their P1E returns following publication of the data. At the end of each financial year the figures for the four quarters of the previous year will be reviewed for revision. A decision on whether to revise will be made based on the impact of any change and the effect it has on the interpretation of the time series. Provisional figures are labelled in the tables with a "P".

Revisions to historic data (all data older than that currently due for scheduled revision) should be made only where there is a substantial revision, such as a change in methodology or definition. Where there are small changes that do not substantially change historic data, internal updates are maintained.

## Uses of the data

The data in this Statistical Release form the basis of evidence on statutory homelessness. Acceptances, decisions, and numbers in temporary accommodation are core series describing homelessness in England, and are key series for international comparisons. They are used by ministers and officials in the Department for Communities and Local Government in the formulation and monitoring of policy, the allocation of resources, performance monitoring and to support bids for funding from the Treasury. The data are used to ensure democratic accountability in answers to Parliamentary Questions, ministerial correspondence, Freedom of Information Act cases and queries from the public.

The Departmental Business Plan, published on 13 May 2011 and available at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/businessplan2011>, includes an impact indicator on households in temporary accommodation. By the end of December 2011, there were 48,920 households in temporary accommodation. This is 2 per cent higher than the same date last

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year. After seasonal adjustment, the number of households in temporary accommodation was 49,390, an increase of 1 per cent over the figure of 48,670 in the previous quarter.

Other Government departments also use the statistics, including DWP (monitoring those in temporary accommodation in receipt of housing benefit), DfE (Child poverty needs assessment toolkit for local authorities) and Defra (sustainable development indicators). Local housing authorities are both providers and users of the statistics and use the data extensively to plan services, allocate resources, monitor performance and benchmark against other authorities. The voluntary sector also uses the statistics to monitor and evaluate housing policy and for campaigning and fundraising purposes.

## User consultation

Users are encouraged to provide feedback on how these statistics are used and how well they meet user needs. Comments on any issues relating to this statistical release are welcomed and encouraged. Responses should be addressed to the "Public enquiries" contact given in the "Enquiries" section below.

The Department's engagement strategy to meet the needs of statistics users is published here:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/engagementstrategystatistics>

The Department's *Draft Statistics Plan for 2011/12* (available at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/plan201112consultation>) proposed reducing the detail of the statutory homelessness quarterly releases to include only the most high profile and volatile data, with a more detailed publication at year end. This is the second quarter for which a shortened release, as set out in the plan, has been produced. There has been no reduction in the number of tables and data published with the quarterly release, simply a reduction in the text which will be offset by a fuller commentary in the release at the end of the financial year. The supplementary tables that accompanied previous releases have been published as live tables. The plan was available for user consultation from 13 April to 3 June and the Department is planning to publish a summary of the responses received and the final version of the plan (covering the year ending March 2012).

## Other information

Details of officials who receive pre-release access to the Department's quarterly Statutory Homelessness Statistical Release up to 24 hours before release can be found at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/researchandstatistics/statistics/prereleaseaccess/>.

The publication date for the first quarter (January to March) 2012 Statutory Homelessness Statistical Release will be **Thursday 14 June**.

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## Enquiries

This Statistical Release, as well as previous releases, can be accessed and all text, tables and charts downloaded electronically, from the Department's website at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/>

Further details on this Statistical Release are available from:

### Media Enquiries:

office hours: 0303 444 1159

out of hours: 0303 444 1201

e-mail: [press.office@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:press.office@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

### Public enquiries:

telephone: 0303 444 3510

e-mail: [homelessnessstats@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:homelessnessstats@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

Zone 4/J4, Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU

Information on Official Statistics is available via the UK Statistics Authority website:

[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk).

Information about DCLG is available via the Department's website: [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk).

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